

More than Conquerors

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I. Introduction.

A. Text: Ephesians 6:10.

B. The wiles of the Devil are his proven methods generally speaking.

II. There are five proven methods.

A. Doubt. (Genesis 3:1, Matthew 4:3)

1. The enemy of faith is doubt.
2. This is one of those viruses that keeps mutating.
3. All doubt is ultimately directed at the character of God.
4. Satan is totally committed to the use of doubt.

B. The deadening effect of sin.

1. Sin desensitizes us.
2. One cannot stop on the slippery slope of sin. (John 12, 13)

C. Diversion.

1. What hurts people the most is often what is good that keeps one from what is best.
2. We invest our lives, but we must make sure only marriage and our relationships with God are nonnegotiables. (2 Corinthians 2:11-14)

D. Division.

1. Sin brought division between Adam and Eve. (Genesis 3:12)
2. Sin brings disunity. (1 Corinthians 3:3)

E. Discouragement.

1. Elijah is a graphic illustration of discouragement.
2. We are vulnerable after a great time of blessing.
3. The spies discouraged the hearts of God's people. (Numbers 13)

III. The armor of God.

A. Loins gird about with truth.

1. If you have a clear conscience, you do not need a good memory.

2. We are to incarnate the truth.

3. Truth protects us against Satan's darts.

B. The breastplate of righteousness.

1. This is the righteousness that comes from Jesus.

2. This is also doing the right thing.

C. Feet covered with the gospel.

1. The gospel is good news.

2. Sometimes gospel is simply a kind word. We give pieces at a time that are appropriate.

D. Shield of faith.

E. Helmet of salvation. We can know our salvation. (2 Timothy 1:12)

F. The sword of the Spirit, which is the Word of God.

IV. Conclusion: the testimony of Bonhoeffer.

Application questions:

1. Which of Satan's methods stand out to you? Explain.

2. How have you seen the armor of God at work in your own life?

3. How would you respond to a fellow believer who argues that we place too much emphasis on Satan's activity in the world today? Explain.
